



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge

Comprehensive Conservation Plan
March 2016



Front and back covers:

Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge
Kate Iaquinto/USFWS

Insets:

Northeastern beach tiger beetle
USFWS

American oystercatcher
Kaiti Titherington/USFWS

Roseate tern (bottom right)
Kirk Rogers/USFWS

Piping plover (bottom center)
Gene Niemien/USFWS

Horseshoe crab (bottom left)
Gregory Breese/USFWS



*This blue goose, designed by
J.N. “Ding” Darling, has become
the symbol of the National Wildlife
Refuge System.*

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting, and enhancing fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the National Wildlife Refuge System comprised of over 150 million acres including over 560 national wildlife refuges and thousands of waterfowl production areas. The Service also operates 70 national fish hatcheries and over 80 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces Federal wildlife laws, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, administers the Endangered Species Act, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Assistance Program which distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state wildlife agencies.

Comprehensive Conservation Plans (CCPs) provide long-term guidance for management decisions on a refuge and set forth goals, objectives, and strategies needed to accomplish refuge purposes. CCPs also identify the Service’s best estimate of future needs. These plans detail program levels that are sometimes substantially above current budget allocations and, as such, are primarily for Service strategic planning and program prioritization purposes. CCPs do not constitute a commitment for staffing increases, operational and maintenance increases, or funding for future land acquisition.



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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Comprehensive Conservation Plan March 2016

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March 18, 2016



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Vision Statement

Extending from the elbow of Cape Cod, Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge consists of an assembly of barrier beaches that includes some of New England's last remaining wild seacoast. This dynamic, wilderness system of ocean, intertidal flats, salt and freshwater marshes, dunes and freshwater ponds, provides vital habitat for a vast array of diverse species. Monomoy NWR is world-renowned for its range of seasonal wildlife inhabitants. Seabirds, waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds, land birds, horseshoe crabs, and seals rely upon the refuge for survival during various times of the year. Given the vital role that these lands and waters play in the survival of so many endangered, threatened, and special species, wildlife conservation and management will always be our first priority at Monomoy NWR.

The unique area that is Cape Cod allows us to reach large numbers of visitors from all over the world. Visitors will learn about the rich history of the refuge, experience unique recreational opportunities, view wildlife in a natural setting, and learn about the positive and negative impacts of human interactions with the refuge. Visitors will understand and appreciate how we manage the refuge, its habitats, and wildlife species. We will ensure that the number of visitors on the refuge is appropriate so as not to detract from a rich wilderness and wildlife experience.

As a regional and national role model, the refuge will provide scientific and technical leadership for wildlife and resource management that is adaptable to changing conditions. Talented, knowledgeable staff will continue to develop and foster partnerships with local, regional, national, and international organizations to assist in the management of Monomoy NWR and inform the conservation community of the work that we do. Monomoy NWR will continue to play a crucial role in the National Wildlife Refuge System by protecting this critical nesting, feeding, and resting area for migratory birds along the Atlantic Coast.



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Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge

Comprehensive Conservation Plan *March 2016*

Summary

Type of Action: Administrative—Development of a Comprehensive Conservation Plan

Lead Agency: U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service

Location: Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge
Chatham, Massachusetts

Administrative Headquarters: Eastern Massachusetts National Wildlife Refuge Complex
Sudbury, Massachusetts

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This final comprehensive conservation plan (CCP) for the 7,921-acre Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge (NWR, refuge) is the culmination of a planning effort involving Massachusetts state agencies, Federal partners, regional and local conservation partners, and the town of Chatham and its residents. This plan establishes 15-year goals and objectives for wildlife and habitats, wilderness resources, public use, administration, and facilities.

This CCP sets forth the management direction that we think best achieves the refuges' purposes, vision, and goals, and responds to public issues raised during the planning process. Under this plan, we will protect, manage, and restore habitats for species of conservation concern, protect wilderness resources, support compatible public uses, and increase our information and resource base in order to better respond to the dynamic ecological conditions typical of this landscape.

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